

Woodbridge Princeton Free

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION PROGRAM

MAYORS OF WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

1924-1985



Woodbridge
Princeton Free

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1985

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This booklet is a souvenir of the Photographic Presentation Program of the Mayors of Woodbridge Township from 1924 to 1985 prepared by the Mayor's Advisory Committee, appointed by Mayor Philip M. Cerria in the year 1985.

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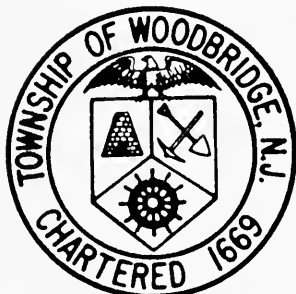
OFFICIAL BOOK
OF THE
MAYORS OF WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
1924-1985

Under auspices of the Mayor's Advisory Committee

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PROGRAM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC
PRESENTATION OF MAYORS
OF WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
1924-1985

Mayor Louis Newberg	Presented by Rose Partenope, Program Chairperson
Mayor William A. Ryan	Presented by Joseph Roberts
Mayor August F. Greiner	Presented by Myrtle Tagliareni
Mayor Hugh B. Quigley	Presented by Sam Virgillo
Mayor Frederick M. Adams	Presented by Casandra Piatkowski
Mayor Walter Zirpolo	Presented by Tex Perry
Mayor Ralph P. Barone	Presented by Cam Johnson
Mayor John J. Cassidy	Presented by John Lefkus
Mayor Joseph DeMarino	Presented by Sylvia Albrecht
Mayor Philip M. Cerria	Presented by Glen Nobes

Reception

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MAY 17 '85

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The Charter granted June 1, 1669 to Woodbridge by Sir Philip Carteret, the Governor of East Jersey, provided that the Township would have the privilege of choosing its own magistrate and ministers and nominating its own military officers.

The first Town Meeting in Woodbridge Township was held Sunday, June 1, 1682; the first meeting house was erected in 1707; the first school teacher was James Fullerton; the Free School Land of 100 acres was laid out in 1701; and the first printing press was established in 1751 by James Parker.

In 1757 the names prominent in the government of Woodbridge Township were Edgar, Bloomfield, Inslee, Osborne, Hadden, Noe, Shotwell, Kinsey, Fitz-Randolph, Tappen, Cutter, Freeman, Dunham, Brown and Hampton.

On November 11, 1885 the Town Committee adopted the Seal of the Township which contained the words "Township of Woodbridge, Middlesex County, New Jersey:", in a circle with a circle surrounding it and the words "Seal" in the center.



MAYOR LOUIS NEUBERG
1924-1925

On January 1, 1924, Louis Neuberg, the Republican Committeeman-at-large, was elected Mayor of Woodbridge Township by the Township Committee, namely:

First Ward members - J. P. Satler and
L. E. McElroy;

Second Ward members - Albert Larsch
and W. D. Hoy;

Third Ward members, J. M. Felton and
J. L. Gill.

Mayor Neuberg established two new committees to be known as the Zoning Committee and the Water Committee. The appointees of both bodies were made up of representative citizens of the Township and were as follows:

Zoning Committee--F. Turner Howell,
H. A. Tappen, J. R. Ryan, Harry J.
Baker, Sr., W. Guy Weaver, Edward
K. Cone and Walter Dunham;

Water Committee--C. R. Brown, B. J.
Connolly, R. A. Veersteeg, G. W. Wood,
and R. W. Miller.

The Zoning Committee was appointed in answer to the growing need of Woodbridge Township to be laid out into sections for residences and factories. The feeling was increasing that the present hit or miss method of following the growth of the Township to go on without some kind of restrictions and regulations, would produce nothing but chaos in the future. Therefore, this Zoning Committee was faced with the task of laying out the Township into zones which would be restricted to the class of buildings for which they were considered most suitable.

The Water Committee was appointed with the intention that it would look after the interests of the Township at the meetings and conferences of the Conference of Municipalities, which had for the past two years been investigating the alleged imminent shortage of water in this part of the state. Before this committee was formed, Woodbridge Township had been represented by a committee of the governing body. However, in both these two new committees, Mayor Neuberg threw aside party lines so that these important matters could be settled by non-partisan bodies of men.

Bids for construction of the new Township Hall were accepted during Mayor Neuberg's administration. It was anticipated that the total cost of the building, including light fixtures, grading of grounds and other incidental expenses would be in the neighborhood of \$125,000. With this in mind, the Township Committee passed an ordinance providing for the raising of up to \$25,000.00 if and when it might be needed to complete the work. The new Town Hall opened June 14, 1924 with a parade and celebration that has been hard to match. Thirty thousand people attended the all day affair. Mayor Neuberg presented the

general chairman, David A. Brown, with a loving cup in appreciation of all his efforts.

The Mayor introduced weekly Monday night meetings to discuss problems of the Township. The first Town Meeting was held in the new building two days after the dedication.

He was responsible for the general re-organization of the police department since the present force was somewhat inadequate to meet the ever-growing needs of the community. After several meetings with the Chief of Police, Patrick Murphy, it was decided to upgrade the existing salaries so they were comparable to the police payroll of neighboring towns. This they thought would boost the morale of the force.

Mayor Neuberg told the department what was expected of them by the residents of the community and instructed them on the proper attitude they should have toward their work, in order to accomplish what was hoped by this re-organization; also, that the Chief of Police be unhampered in his work to as great a degree as possible and that any veto of his orders by the Police Committee be entertained only after serious deliberation by that body.

It was further recommended that certain new graded positions be created initially consisting of: one detective sergeant, one roundsman with rank of sergeant, three desk sergeants, to be on duty at headquarters, in order to have a man there 24 hours a day, 13 patrolmen, 4 motorcycle men, 2 traffic officers, 1 police automobile which would be

a combination patrol car and ambulance, one automobile coupe and 3 bicycles.

During his administration the new addition to the high school which is now Woodbridge Junior High opened and the old "Town Hall" was sold to the Woodbridge Fire Company for the sum of \$15.00.

It seems that Mayor Neuberg was responsible for the forming of committees and policies that our Township fathers have enlarged upon and are now in operation through our present governing body.

MAYOR WILLIAM A. RYAN
1926-1933



In the November 1925 election, William A. Ryan defeated Mayor Louis Neuberg and the Republican majority was swept out of office.

William A. Ryan was the fourth son and seventh child of Patrick L. and Catherine (Doyle) Ryan and was born in Woodbridge on March 12, 1881. He was educated at the public and St. James Parochial Schools of Woodbridge and the Coleman Business College at Newark, New Jersey.

He started in the clay mining and manufacturing business as his father before him had done.

He was a member of the Woodbridge Knights of Columbus and St. James Catholic Church. He married Elizabeth Jelicks in Woodbridge on November 25, 1907. They were the parents of four children--Elizabeth, Patrick L., Catherine and Margaret.

The proposed new theatre on Main St., which was later to become the Woodbridge National Bank was built during his administration.

The width of Grove Avenue, either 30 or 60 feet almost turned into a legal battle during his term with Mayor Ryan saying he would never sign his name to anything permitting a forty foot street since there were already too many in the Township.

When the new committee met, our Township attorney was Henry St. Clair Lavin, George H. Merrill was the engineer, William H. Gardner, the treasurer, George Blum, the road foreman, Dr. James J. Collins was the Township Physician, Fred Leidner, the building inspector and Joseph Schiavo was made the overseer of the poor.

Horace Drake was named the chief clerk of the new clerical force for the tax office and Mrs. Hilda Demarest and Miss Anna Duff were his assistants.

Mayor Ryan ran on a good government ticket in 1927 and defeated Martin G. Ashley.

During Mayor Ryan's administration, the Township Committee appropriated \$2,500. for library aid. They also banned the traveling carnivals because of the protests they received from the citizens and business interests of the Township.

The addition to the Hopelawn School was built during his term and a car race track was opened on the site where the present Woodbridge Senior High School now stands.

In 1928, Harry Ford became the temporary chairman of the newly formed Lions Club, making it the second service club in Woodbridge Township, the Rotary Club having been formed in 1924.

After several very stormy hearings and much opposition, the Shell Oil Company came to Woodbridge during Mayor Ryan's administration and employment was provided for many residents.

Mayor Ryan was re-elected in November, 1929, defeating Leon E. McElroy, a Republican.

During this term, the Mayor appointed a park and playground committee headed by Bernhardt Jensen to start working on the park system of the Township.

Mayor Ryan welcomed sixty members of the Ceramic Society of England who were visiting the clay districts of the United States.

During his term, the Woodbridge National Bank merged with the First National Bank and became known as the First National Bank and Trust Company.

In hopes of reviving shipping, the dock on Woodbridge Creek at Cutters Lane was repaired and the government dredged the creek to Berry's dock, but it did not encourage any additional shipping, so the creek was refilled.

Sewers, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and cinder paving were improved during Mayor Ryan's term.

In May, 1929 he was appointed to an executive committee planning a sanitary sewer linking Union, Springfield, Westfield, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Roselle Park, Rahway, Clark and Woodbridge Township.

Mayor Ryan appointed a citizen's committee representing all the civic, social and industrial groups of the Township to survey the situation the depression had caused the Township and to report their conclusions at the county meeting on unemployment that was to be held in New Brunswick on November 10, 1930. This ad hoc committee gave birth to three more committees, representing the manufacturing, civic and charitable, and fraternal organizations. These organizations, along with the Township employees set up a Relief Fund for the unemployed. Unfortunately, the clay mines and brick plants that were a large source of employment for the citizens, closed and unemployment increased.

In 1931, Mayor Ryan was re-elected, defeating Harry Ford, a Republican.

The Township Committee consisted of First Ward members, Robert L. Satler and Jacob W. Grausman; Second Ward members, George T. Applegate and Anthony Aquila and Third Ward members Joseph L. Gill and William P. Campbell.

The Woodbridge Township Citizens Committee for the Relief of the Unemployed and Needy was formed in November 1931, and plans began to register the unemployed in the various sections of the Township.

During this term of office, construction began on the Strawberry Hill School.

Late in 1931, after a visit from the Federal Bank Examiners, the First National Bank and Trust Co. closed its doors.

Mr. Frank Van Syckle, brought \$120,000 worth of Township bonds for the Perth Amboy National Bank of which he was president, but still everything seemed to be going downhill. Taxes were hard to collect and then no one seemed to want to buy the Municipal Bonds. "Baby Bonds" were then issued by the Township in denominations of \$5.00, \$10.00, \$20.00 and \$25.00. These were issued to pay the employees and for services rendered. Mayor Ryan urged all the merchants, landlords, building associations and taxpayers to use these bonds the same as money in liquidating their taxes and assessments. He also urged the citizens of Woodbridge Township to purchase as many of these bonds as possible so that outsiders would have their faith in the Township restored again.

The Barron Library was forced to close for lack of funds, but opened on good faith a few weeks later.

Mayor Ryan's administration saw the set-up of the Civilian Conservation Corps, which was a relief aid program for employment of 16 year olds and up.

On October 18, 1933 the Mayor declared a holiday for Woodbridge Township as it participated in the National Recovery Administration.



MAYOR AUGUST FURMAN GREINER
1934-1951

In the November 1933 election, there was a Republican sweep in the Township and August Furman Greiner defeated Mayor Ryan. The Republicans celebrated with fireworks and toured the Township in a caravan of cars.

Mayor Greiner took office in the height of the depression and was to serve as Mayor for 18 years. He was a 32nd Mason and a member of the Woodbridge FNAM, Americus Lodge. He served on the Board of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority for 15 years; was a member of the Board of Governors of the Perth Amboy Hospital and the coronor of Woodbridge Township. He was also a World War 1 veteran and the owner and president of the Greiner Funeral Home.

His first steps to start Woodbridge Township on the road to recovery was to inform the taxpayers that if they paid their 1933 taxes, in cash, before January 31st, any interest due would be waived.

Since the Township had \$31,000 of defaulted bonds, Mayor Greiner, Committeeman Harry M. Gerns and Lewis Water, the Receiver for the defunct National Bank &

Trust Co. met to try and save the Township from New Jersey State supervision.

With the plan of refinancing, the Mayor was responsible for saving the Township from bankruptcy.

During Mayor Greiner's term, the Township became one of the first municipalities in the County to install radio communications. The economy began to pick up as evidenced by the granting of building permits and more jobs become available.

In the 1935 election, the Woodbridge Independent Leader endorsed Mayor Greiner for re-election mainly because in the first year of his term, there was a balance of \$14,000 in the treasury and such drastic cuts were made in the 1935 budget, that there was a reduction of 111 points in the tax rate, which was the lowest in 12 years.

Mayor Greiner defeated Anthony Aquila, a Democrat from Iselin in the 1935 election and the entire local Republican ticket was swept into office with him.

During this term, the Woodbridge National Bank opened after being closed 5½ years. Mayor Greiner and Committeeman Spencer were selected to do the honors and burn the 200,000 Baby Bonds which represented a borrowing of \$2,000,000.00. (Two million dollars).

Woodbridge Township's first ambulance went into service and it was the beginning of the First Aid Squads. The \$120,000. grant application for the Middlesex County Girls Vocational High School was approved by President Roosevelt.

The pleas of the Mayor and Township Committee to the Board of Public Utilities in Washington to eliminate grade crossings, that began in 1934 were finally heard in 1938 after many fatal accidents at these crossings, thus ending the long fight for safety improvement.

As the president of the Mayors Association of Middlesex County, he advocated the hiring of the local unemployed over the practice of the public works contractors importing cheap labor.

Mayor Greiner ran twice unopposed.

On June 9, 1939 the Woodbridge Leader-Journal and the Woodbridge Independent merged and was then to be known as the Independent Leader. New Jersey Day at the New York World's Fair was June 28, 1939 and Mayor Greiner declared a holiday in Woodbridge at Governor A. Harry Moore's request, so all could attend the Fair.

Toward the end of the year, on December 17, 1939, the new St. Andrew's Catholic Church, in Avenel was blessed.

On May 20, 1940 Woodbridge dedicated \$1,500,000 for the elimination of the grade crossings after six long years of fighting for the project.

Mayor Greiner in August, 1940 appointed a special committee to serve in the Home Defense Program in cooperation with the Governor's Committee.

Mayor Greiner participated in the dedication ceremonies of the Thomas Alva Edison Memorial Bridge by Governor Moore on December 14, 1940.

In February 1941, he was named Chairman of the Defense Council. In the WOR nationwide broadcast, in which Woodbridge Township was cited as a "Typical American Community", Mayor Greiner pledged allegiance to President Roosevelt and the country and he went on to say, in effect, that we intended to keep the freedom that was ours since 1669.

He declared July 12, 1941 as collection day for all aluminumware to be collected and donated for National defense.

In the November 1941 election, Mayor Greiner ran unopposed and the Republicans were again in power. After the election, the Defense Council, with the Mayor as Chairman divided the Township into 16 zones and began registering all the residents. Shortly thereafter, rationing began and the whole Township Committee became the Rationing Board. Appointments were made for Air Raid Wardens, Emergency Road repairs and the like. Miss Ruth Wolk was in charge of bandage making and had the responsibility of securing equipment for the various casualty stations. Miss Wolk was also chairman of the project that gave kit bags to the servicemen before they left for foreign duty. Mrs. William H. Doe served as chairman of the blood bank, but due to ill health, her place was taken by Hugh B. Quigley.

Shortly thereafter, the permanent Red Cross Headquarters was opened on Main Street. The Mayor was very active in the Red Cross during the war years. Mayor Greiner dedicated Woodbridge's Service Flag at the Municipal Hall.

Mayor Greiner pledged the support of the Township to help returning servicemen and women to settle into their homes and

jobs. He welcomed the families to the converted Army barrack which had been converted to a housing project for the returning veterans.

He officiated at the memorial dedication ceremonies in Woodbridge Park honoring the Township war dead of World War I and World War II.

In October, 1947, he laid the cornerstone for the Woodbridge Emergency Squad building.

After the November 1947 election, although Mayor Greiner was again re-elected, the Democrats gained control after 14 years and the Township employees came under Civil Service protection.

During his 8th term in office, we helped celebrate the 250th birthday of the Trinity Episcopal Church and the burning of their \$7,500. mortgage.

Mayor Greiner spoke at the consecration of the cornerstone ceremony of the Adath Israel Synagogue and the community center. Also during his term, St. Joseph's Convent would be the headquarters of a nursing service by the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

On his birthday, May 10, 1949, he announced plans to run for his 9th term. Again he was the only Republican on the committee for that two year term.

Under the direction of Mayor Greiner and Chief Keating, volunteers and First Aid Squads, the police and fire departments, worked diligently to remove the injured and dying from the tragic railroad wreck in Woodbridge on February 8, 1951. Many

citizens opened their homes to the injured.

In April, 1951 Greiner announced he would not seek another term.

Mayor Greiner was named Citizen of the Year by the Township Committee in 1952 after he left office.

MAYOR HUGH B. QUIGLEY
1952-1959



Hugh Quigley, a Democrat was elected Mayor and on New Year's Day, 1952 was sworn into office. A change in Mayors for the first time in 18 years, Mayor Quigley's granddaughter, Kathryne Quigley, held the Bible as he received the oath of office from Township Clerk, B. J. Dunigan.

Hugh Bernard Quigley was born June 6, 1887 in Glasgow, Scotland. He married the former Edna Markley and they had three sons, Bernard, Hugh and Joseph and three daughters, Marie, Katherine and Elizabeth. They resided in Woodbridge Township. He was educated in the Pittsburgh, Pa. public school system.

He was plant manager for 40 years at the Shell Oil Company in Sewaren.

There was a welcome home celebration on January 19, 1952 for Woodbridge hero, Captain Kurt Carlsen who stayed with his ship, the S.S. Flying Enterprise, until the end, thereby upholding the noblest tradition of the sea. Mayor Quigley presented the scroll and key of the Township to Captain Carlsen.

During his administration, the Valentine Fire Brick Co. formally opened its new \$1,500,000 plant.

Elizabethtown Gas Co. purchased 42.3 acres of land in Iselin in February 1958, to construct a distribution center.

The School Board approved plans for five new elementary and three Junior High Schools.

Mayor Quigley officiated at the opening of the Ronson Corporation International offices and warehouse on Route 1.

It was during his term of office that the Department of Defense released \$338,000 in Federal Funds for the construction of a new Army National Guard Armory in Woodbridge Township.

S. Klein's (on the Square) New York, announced that it planned to build a large department store on Route 1, and Two Guys From Harrison obtained two building permits for two front additions. The new store took the place of the Two Guys original building.

The expansion of the Public Service Corp. generating plant in Sewaren was announced. Along with the schools and industrial growth, there was quite a bit of activity in the churches throughout the Township. St. Anthony's Church in Port Reading added a 42 foot extension. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was built at a cost of \$272,000 plus \$60,000 for the altar. At St. Cecelia's Church, under the direction of Rev. John M. Wilus, the Quonset Hut, which had housed five classrooms, was torn down to make room for an addition to St. Cecelia's School. The Hungarian Reformed Church constructed a new church. St. John Vianney, in Colonia, announced their construction plans.

Two new schools opened their doors for the first time--School 21 and School 22, both in the Colonia section of the Township.

Mayor Quigley died March 3, 1961.

MAYOR FREDERICK M. ADAMS
1960-1961



Frederick M. Adams was born in Sewaren, on June 7, 1919. He married the former Lois Jeanne Avelson Hepburn and they had five children--Kim, Kerry, Kelly, Korky and Kurt. Upon their marriage, they settled in a home on a portion of the old Dr. Fred Albee estate in Colonia. He was educated in the Woodbridge Township Public School System. He graduated from Rutgers University and Harvard Law School. He served as an attorney for the New Jersey Turnpike and was joined in his law firm by a junior partner, Alan Rockoff. He was a World War II Veteran. He was exalted ruler of the Woodbridge Elks. After eight years of Democratic regime, under Mayor Hugh G. Quigley, Republican Frederick M. Adams was elected Committeeman-at-large (Mayor) and took over the reins of Woodbridge on January 1, 1960.

Mayor Adams and a majority of the Township Committee hired the Township's first Business Administrator in September, 1960. On October 4, 1959, Fred Adams, on behalf of the Township greeted Vice-President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, as they motored through Iselin.

During his term of office, the Central Headquarters for the New Jersey Highway

Authority operating the Parkway was built in Woodbridge Township, St. Cecelia's School added a new wing and Rev. John M. Wilus hosted a dinner in the new auditorium to celebrate the dedication ceremonies. The remainder of schools in the eight million dollar program were dedicated and building was begun on the Elizabethtown Consolidated Gas Company in Iselin. Low cost housing was approved for the elderly of Woodbridge Township and construction started on Stern Towers. Also his term saw the three million dollar addition to Hess Trading and Transportation in Port Reading and the million dollar plant of the Premier Die Casting Company built in Avenel.

The fight that began in 1955 over the free school lands finally ended in 1961 when, during Mayor Adams' term, the Township Council voted 6 to 4 to retain these as an Industrial Park owned by the Township.

In 1961 Port Reading and Sewaren wanted to break away from Woodbridge Township and incorporate as the Village of Warren. After almost a year's battle, the Supreme Court ruled they could not secede from the Township.

Keeping his promise to several Women's Clubs, Mayor Adams and the Township Council passed an ordinance approving a Charter Study and the Referendum was approved overwhelmingly by the voters.

On November, 1961, a Referendum was held, initiated by an ordinance adopted by the Mayor and a majority of the Township Committee. It was approved by the voters and a Charter Study Commission was created to review the form of the Township's government. The following year, 1962, the

electorate approved the Study Commission's recommendation to accept a strong Mayor and nine council members form of government under the Faulker Act.

Although Mayor Adams was defeated in the 1961 election he continued in civic affairs, arranging for the transfer of land from the Presbyterian Church to erect a Senior Citizen's complex.

He died on May 8, 1973.

MAYOR WALTER ZIRPOLO
1962-1967



Walter Zirpolo, a Democrat, was born on August 22, 1915. He is married to the former Eleanor Drake and they have three children--Raymond, Carol and Jeffrey; two grandchildren--Erin and Brianna. He headed a supermarket in Rahway, New Jersey and retired in 1960 selling his assets of the National Groceries to Mayfair, Inc., operators of Foodtown.

In 1961, he defeated Mayor Frederick M. Adams, a Republican, and was elected Mayor of Woodbridge.

During his administration, the Township saw one of the largest periods of growth. High Schools had been on double sessions since 1932, grade schools went on double sessions in 1950. A four and a half million dollar "pay-as-you-plan" program, and various bond issues totalling nearly 20 million dollars covered the construction of two high schools, three junior high schools, and several grade schools and it was anticipated that by 1964 the public school system would be free of double sessions for the first time in 34 years.

The Citizen Library Council and the Industrial Commission were formed during his

term. Under the Urban Renewal Program Woodbridge Township was the first in the United States to complete a community renewal program of "Project Bowtie", an area of 106.4 acres, the largest rehabilitation project in New Jersey. Mayor Zirpolo named Joseph A. Galassi, to be the first Police Director in the Township.

In 1962 Township taxes were decreased by 57 points for the first time in the history of the Township.

Mayor Zirpolo was again elected Mayor in the 1963 election.

The actual initiation of the Mayors' Council became effective on January 1, 1964 making Mayor Zirpolo the first strong Mayor. Under the new form of government, the executive and legislation functions were separated, the Mayor was now responsible for the execution and administration of the policies while the Council establishes these policies. During this term, Woodbridge received the "All American City" Award. This award was sponsored by Look Magazine and the National Municipal League. We were given the "All America City" flag and it was flown at the Municipal building.

Mayor Zirpolo announced the Township would begin a year long celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the State of New Jersey. Miss Ruth Wolk, Township Historian, was named General Chairman of the project. Woodbridge Township received a bronze medal from the N. J. Tercentenary Commission for the best program submitted from Middlesex County.

With the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the new High School was

named John F. Kennedy Memorial High School and Mayor Zirpolo proclaimed there would be a one month mourning period in the Township.

Edwin P. Beckerman was named Director of the new library system.

Under Mayor Zirpolo's administration, the idea for a 176 million dollar clay pit development project began.

During this term a third floor was added to the Townhall, making room for the Division of Planning and Development and the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Woodbridge State School, an institution for retarded children was dedicated in 1965.

Ronson Corporation added a 34,000 sq. ft. addition. Continental Plastics and Chemical Company came into Woodbridge Industrial Park.

The auction for the Township's free school lands netted \$932,000 on Sept. 29, 1965. Kuhlman Dining Car Company was to build in Avenel and Bildisco Wholesale Building Products Co., Elizabeth would move into Engelhard-Hanovia Industrial Park on Blair Road.

In 1966 Mayor Zirpolo and ex-Mayor Adams dedicated the Coopers Towers Senior Citizen Housing project. The Mayor and Tex Perry, President of the Iselin Chamber of Commerce, dedicated the U. S. Post Office Building that now stands on Middlesex-Essex Turnpike and the Mayor, Congressman Edward J. Patten, & N.J. State Senator Norman Tanzman, officiated at the dedication of the Iselin First Aid Squad.

Mayor Zirpolo resigned as Mayor of Woodbridge Township in the Spring of 1967 and now resides at "Babbling Brook" on New Dover Road in Colonia, New Jersey. He is the owner of the Woodbridge Fitness and Health Center.



MAYOR RALPH P. BARONE
1967-1971

Dr. Ralph P. Barone was born on July 10, 1921 in West Pittston, Pa. He married the former Marie Rigato and they have three children--Diane, Joseph and Michael. He was educated in the Wilkes Barre Public School System, received his B. A. from Newark College, Rutgers University and holds a Master of Science and a Doctorate in Organic Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania.

He served on the Board of Education for several years. He was also Councilman-at Large for two years and a Councilman for five years.

Dr. Barone served as an appointed Mayor in Woodbridge in the Spring of 1967 and was elected to a full term in November 1967. Joseph Nemyo was elected Council President. The rest of the Council consisted of Robert Smith, Charles Terzella, John A. Hila, Harold Mortensen, John Egan, George Yates, Gene A. Tomasso and William Kilgallin.

During his term, Eastern Airlines announced plans to build their new center on

the Free School Lands.

Mayor Barone spearheaded a drive for a new railroad station and indicated a better use of the Free School Lands which started a flow of high priced office buildings. The township was also to have a high speed railroad stop at the Metropark Station across from Eastern Airlines. The Mayor participated in the dedication of the Metropark Train Station. During his administration, many new industries came into Woodbridge which produced millions of dollars in ratables. They were Concord Electronics, lonetics Corporation Hess Office Building, Dynadyne, Inc., Pilot Chemical Laboratory, Nutrie Transportation, Alcan Aluminum and American Merchandising Corporation. He negotiated contracts to build with Herculite, Mellan Chemical Co., Allied Old English and Royal Dairy.

Two theaters came into the Township; namely, the Walter Reade Woodbridge Theater on Route 35 and the Fox Theater on Route 1.

During his term, the 89 year old St. James Roman Catholic Church was demolished and a new structure seating 1,500 people was built in its place. The Holy Rosary Church was built and the Avenel Presbyterian Church opened. The First Congregational Church in Woodbridge was dedicated.

On October 22, 1967, the Woodbridge Township Business & Professional Women's Club and the Cultural Sub-Committee of the Mayor's Commission on Youth sponsored the first United States Day Celebration.

Mayor Barone ordered a special census in 1968 hoping the Township would show there were 100,000 residents so that the municipality would be given an extra \$27.00 per pupil in State aid. The census fell some 2,000 short because the Township was not allowed to count students away at college nor servicemen.

On May 30, 1968 Mayor Barone dedicated the American Legion Post 471--"The T. Nutley Post."

The new Township seal adopted in 1967 was corrected and finally presented by Tex Perry, Executive Director of the Iselin Citizen's Committee, to the Council President, Joseph Nemyo. The Seal had an eagle to show strength--the kiln representing industry (clay)--the pick and shovel representing farming--the wheel representing shipping, in the center. The outer circle read "Township of Woodbridge, N.J., Chartered 1669".

His term of office saw the clay pits converted into the most exciting real estate venture in New Jersey. The land went from a value of \$3,000 an acre to \$125,000 and Woodbridge Center was finally built.

The Mayor had the most comprehensive storm drain plan drawn up that resulted in eliminating flooding in the center of Woodbridge and other parts of the Township.

The Tercentenary Celebration of Woodbridge Township began January, 1969 with the raising of the Township and American flags at the Memorial Municipal Building. Mayor Barone and his family rode in an old-fashioned stagecoach to a reception at St. Anthony's Auditorium in Port Reading.

They were greeted by Miss Ruth Wolk, the General Chairman of the Woodbridge Tercentenary Program. She and her committee planned many events during the year 1969 in celebration of this event..

Mayor Barone stated he was disappointed that he had not been able to convince the public on the necessity of the solution to the solid waste treatment system.

Dr. Barone is presently the Director of Public Works for the township of Woodbridge.



MAYOR JOHN J. CASSIDY
1972-1979

John J. Cassidy was born on March 8, 1920 in Port Reading. He is married to the former Marguerite Blanchard and lives in Sewaren. They have a son Robert and two grandchildren--James and Michael.

He was educated in the Woodbridge Public School System, studied Municipal Government at Rutgers University.

He served in the U. S. Coast Guard and is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 857. He is also a member of the American Legion, American Irish Association and the N. J. Mayor's Association. He was a Township Councilman and was employed by the Prudential Insurance Company and is the holder of the company's "President's Citation" for outstanding all-around accomplishments.

He ran on the Republican ticket and was elected Mayor of the Township in the 1971 election, defeating Mayor Barone, a Democrat. Joseph Nemyo was the Council President with the remainder of the Council being--John Chirico, Bernard Peterson, Vincent Martino, Philip Cerria, William

Kilgallin, Charles Terzella, Richard Kuzniak and Frank Jacob.

Mayor Cassidy's administration saw the building of a Woodbridge Center Office Complex, the expansion of the Woodbridge Center Shopping Mall and the Prudential Plaza Office Complex.

Control of a tight budget enabled Mayor Cassidy to stabilize the Municipal portion of the taxes paid by the residents of Woodbridge Township.

The Mayor focused on the Flood Control projects through Federal Funding to bring the flooding problems of the Township under control.

During his term of office, in recognition of our Bicentennial Celebration in 1976, the Woodbridge Township Bicentennial Park was dedicated on Rahway Ave. near our Municipal complex. Located in this park is a replica of the James Parker Press Building which was razed and burned to the ground by the English Soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

The Barron Cultural Arts Center was established in 1977, and the 100 year old building was accepted for inclusion in both State and Federal Registers of Historic Sites.

Mayor Cassidy established the Township boxing and weightlifting facility by refurbishing the old, unused Township Incinerator Building on Main St.

The Woodbridge Township Marina was built in Sewaren in 1975 and many new recreational areas throughout the Township

were developed and expanded. Eighteen new tennis courts and eight new basketball courts were built with lighting for night use. The Community Center for Bunns Lane Housing Project was constructed with Federal Funding.

Mayor Cassidy assisted with the establishment of the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in the Township and initiated the first Annual Mayor's Tennis Tournament.

It was during his term of office that the Town Hall was refurbished and aluminum windows were installed. The parking lot was completely redesigned and paved.

The Mayor established the Senior Citizen Transportation and the "Meals-on-Wheels" programs. The construction of the new Senior Citizen's building on Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge was begun. This building was later to be dedicated in honor of Mayor Frederick Adams.

During his administration the Woodbridge Main and Fords Libraries were constructed.

Mayor Cassidy instituted an Action Now telephone line (636-3232) which was a bridge between citizens and government and was a 24 hour telephone service maintained so that residents could call at any time..

During his term a modern computer equipment system was installed at the Police Headquarters and this unit provided a direct tie-in to the State Police information system for greater efficiency. Woodbridge Township was rated "Safest Community" in the United States by the FBI according to the incidence of violent or high fear crimes

per 100,000 population.

Mayor Cassidy appointed a second municipal Judge, Joseph A. Dambach, to alleviate over-crowded court cases. He also appointed the first Township Prosecutor, which was financed by the Revenue Share Funds; the first full time Tax Assessor, John Redmond; and the first Assistant Tax Assessor, Walter Neff. He also appointed Alan Rockoff Law Director and Richard Lapinski as the fourth Director of Planning and Development.

He led the fight against the proposed Ditrugas Liquified Natural Gas facility located across the Arthur Kill in Staten Island.

The Mayor instituted the first injunction against New York City for polluting our Township beaches and waterfronts in Sewaren with garbage and highly contagious hospital refuse. This resulted in a settlement by the City of New York assuring full monetary responsibility for beach and waterfront clean-up. (Fresh Kills Landfill)

He established the first East Coast ordinance for ships at dock, loading and unloading, which required a flotation boom to contain any and all oil spills.

Mayor Cassidy is now enjoying his retirement.



MAYOR JOSEPH DeMARINO
1980-1983

Joseph DeMarino was born on June 10, 1934 in Port Reading, N.J. He married the former Lorraine King and resides with his family in Port Reading. They have two children--Joseph and Dennis. He was educated in the Woodbridge School System and attended several police academies. Mayor DeMarino, a Democrat, defeated Mayor Cassidy in the 1979 election.

He started his career as a police officer in 1960, and then went into the Public Defenders Office as the Senior Defense Investigator. The Mayor was elected to the Board of Education and served for several years before going to the Prosecutor's Office in New Brunswick. He served as part of the homicide and death by auto division. He was elected as County Sheriff, a position held until his election as Mayor. Other positions were Port Reading Fire Commissioner and founder of the First Aid Squad of Port Reading.

During his term he was responsible for the project Evergreen, the Senior Citizen Recreation program. Mayor DeMarino was instrumental in the designating of 50 acres of Township land in the claypits area as

a redevelopment. The development proposals were solicited nation-wide for that land. He also had the Municipal Garage removed from Main Street and re-located in Keasby. During his administration he began the plans for the park at Sewaren Peninsula to be named the Alvin P. Williams Park in memory of a patrolman who drowned while attempting to save a child being carried away by flood waters.

Mayor DeMarino negotiated with the Freeholders and the Township reclaimed 25 acres of land which was leased to the county to build a Fire Academy in the Keasby section of the Township. Under his administration, a new Police Range was designed for another tract of land in Keasbey. He also was responsible for the Senior Citizen Building on Inman Avenue in the Colonia Section of the Township.

Mayor DeMarino was on the Committee for the bond issue for the reconstruction of the Green Street Circle, a project that is almost near completion at this writing after many long years of waiting and many tragic accidents and deaths at the circle.

The fight against the Liquid Natural Gas Tanks in Staten Island continued during his administration and Richard E. Lapinski, Director of Planning and Development and Alfred Russo, Director of Law, attended the hearings in Washington before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to oppose the project. At this writing and after 10 years of effort, the application to fill the tanks was withdrawn.

The Mayor stated that his problems were the re-evaluation, which is still a problem. He was also disappointed that nothing further was done with the Middlesex County Utility Authority and that this project is still up in the air.

After the Mayor left office, he became Traffic Safety Coordinator for Middlesex County, a position he holds today.

MAYOR PHILIP M. CERRIA
1984-



Philip M. Cerria was born September 28, 1934 in Hoboken, N.J. He is married to the former Margaret Riccardi and they have three children--Charles, Philip and Margaret and two grandchildren--Gina Marie and Charles, Jr.

Philip M. Cerria, a Republican, was elected Mayor in the November 1983 election, defeating Mayor Joseph DeMarino, a Democrat.

He is the General Manager of Interstate Grocery Trucking in North Bergen.

He served on the Municipal Council from January 1, 1974 until December 31, 1983.

As the only Republican Councilman, he sponsored the following ordinances that were adopted by a Democratic controlled Council:

1. That there would be no public drinking of alcoholic beverages on public properties; such as, school, parks, etc.
2. Mandated the installation of smoke detectors in all apartment houses. This ordinance

was put into effect in 1975 and was a first in the State of New Jersey.

3. In 1981, an ordinance prohibited the sale of drug paraphernalia (the Head Shop Bill) which was also a first in the State.
4. The "Pooper Scooper" Ordinance.
5. Mandated the requirement of smoke detectors in single family homes prior to them being sold.

Along with the above legislative achievements, he was successful in having a new Little League Baseball field built in Iselin, opening a Youth Center at School 6 and starting the Iselin Athletic Basketball League.

His campaign issues were to stop the construction of apartment houses, townhouses and condominiums. He wanted to institute competent fiscal policies in order to stabilize taxes; to expand the police patrols to within the residential areas; to return the Mayor's salary to \$10,000 along with the position being part-time; to appoint professional, qualified individuals as his administrators and to build an ice rink.

His major accomplishments as Mayor (to date) have been to have 80 acres of land rezoned from multi-family to single-family zones, office research and light industry, thereby stopping the construction of apartments.

Mayor Cerria appointed Chief Anthony O'Brien Acting Director of Police.

He was successful in his fight with the State Department of Corrections in having the hard core inmates at Rahway State prison put behind the maximum security walls and having uniforms worn 24 hours a day.

The Mayor appointed a medical doctor as the Director of Health & Welfare, and Woodbridge became the only municipality in the State with a medical doctor at the helm. He re-organized and re-structured the Health Department's activities into Human Services. This led to the incorporation of nutritional programs as well as programs for the Exceptional Adults in the Evergreen Building.

The Mayor also restructured the Police Department's patrol system by establishing steady shifts, walking patrolmen and expanding our Narcotics Department.

He instituted a new philosophy in planning for the future by requiring the developers to contribute toward resolving the traffic and infra-structure problems that will be created in their progress.

In his first year in office, he appointed a Mayor's Advisory Committee and gave them the project of commemorating the 60th Birthday of the Municipal Building. The celebration took place June 14, 1984.

The Second year, the Committee was given the Photographic Presentation & Research project of the Mayors dated back to 1924.

Mayor Cerria's future plans for Woodbridge Township are to make sure that the future construction of the Township will be properly planned as well as continuing to

maintain a suburban atmosphere. He wants the environmental planning to be a top priority in that resource recovery must be implemented on a clean, efficient basis.

He would like his concept for a "Woodbridge Township Tomorrow" to include the construction of a recreational facility or mini-sport complex.

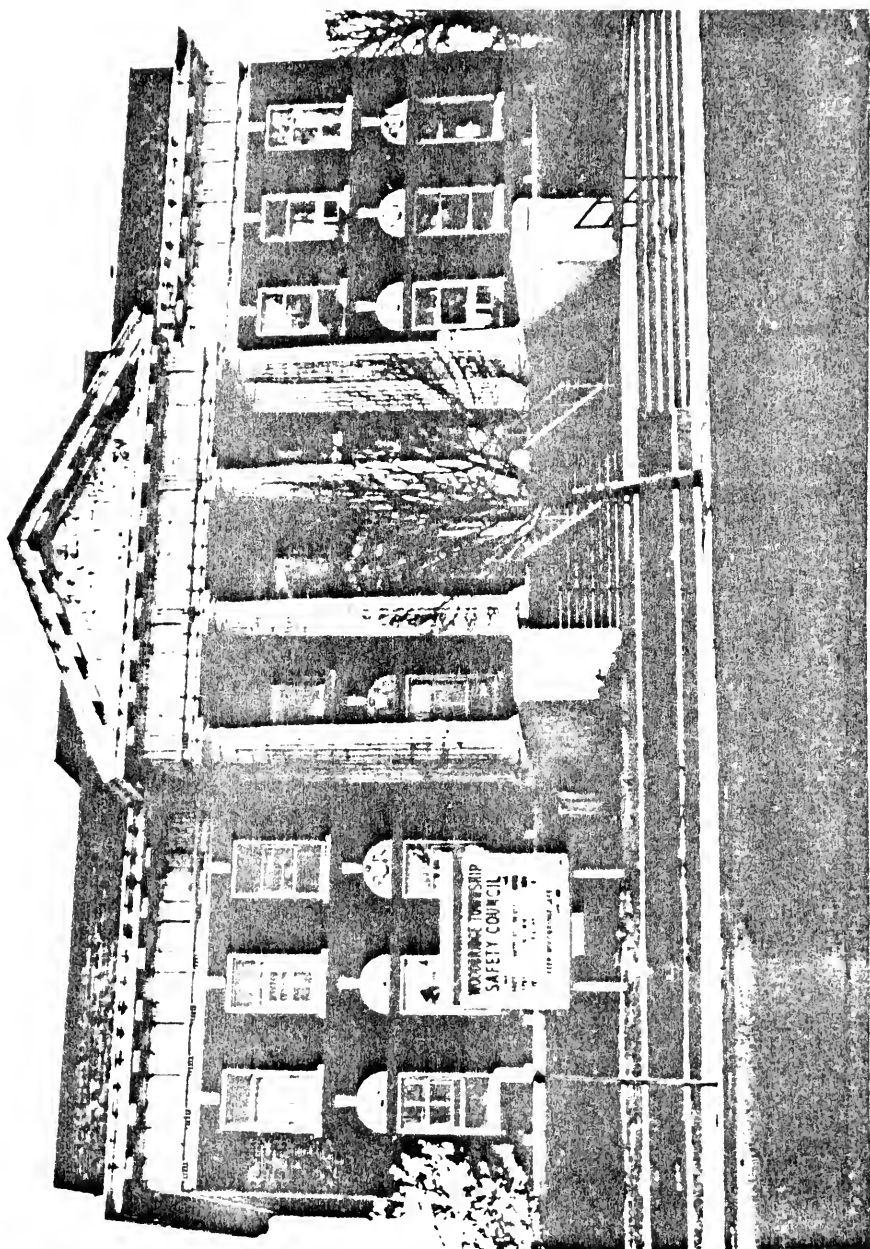
At this writing, the Mayor hopes his Senior Citizen Tax Relief program will be approved by the Council as well as the State Legislature. He hopes this to be his memorabilia. Along with changing the direction form of an urban community, the Mayor would like to be remembered for the honest and sincere efforts he gave the Woodbridge resident--good, honest government.

He also asks the citizens to help him by putting a little extra effort in maintaining their properties and getting along with their neighbors.



THE MAYOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Seated L to R: Sylvia Albrecht, Cam Johnson, Greg Cannonie, Rose Partenope.
Standing L to R: John Leftus, Tex Perry, Sam Virgillo, Mayor Philip Cerria,
Myrtle Tagliareni, Joseph Roberts and Glen Nobes. Missing from photograph
are Casandra Piatkowski, Herbert Travisano and John Szilagyi.



We wish to express our thanks first to the relatives and friends of our ten Mayors for the information and memories they shared with us, then to Ruth Wolk, Woodbridge Township Historian, for all the facts her marvelous book, "The History of Woodbridge" provided, then to Tex Perry and David T. Miller, Sr. for the facts contained in their informative book, "A History of Iselin"; to the authors of the official souvenir book of the 225th Anniversary and Memorial Celebration of Woodbridge in 1924; to the Independent Leader for all the information it provided from year 1911; to Mr. Edwin Beckerman and Mr. Jack Fishman and their library staff, for the cooperation rendered our committee; to Mrs. Elinor Winstanley for all her efforts on our invitations, program and matting of the photographs, to Robert DeSantis for providing our refreshments today and last, but not least, to Mayor Philip M. Cerria for the opportunity to develop this project.

Rose P. Partenope
Photographic Program Chairperson
Researcher and Writer

